

GRADE 1

Families Here and across the World

Standard 1-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations and principles of American democracy

1-4.1: Recognize the basic values of American democracy, including respect for the rights and opinions of others, fair treatment for everyone, and respect for the rules we live by. (P)

Taxonomy Level A 1 Understand /Factual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge: This is the student's first introduction to the concept of democracy. Students will be introduced to more in-depth discussions of democracy in fourth grade (4-3.3) when they explain the major ideas and philosophies of government reflected in the Declaration of Independence. In seventh grade (7-2.3) students will outline the role and purposes of a constitution, including such functions as defining a relationship between a people and their government, describing the organization of government and the characteristics of shared powers, and protecting individual rights and promoting the common good.

In high school (USG-2.1, USG-2.5) students will summarize the basic principles of American democracy including popular sovereignty, the rule of law, the balance of power, the separation of powers, limited government, federalism, and representative government as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. They will further explain factors that have shaped the distinctive characteristics of American society, including the belief in limited government, religious freedom, diversity of the population, and relative social equality.

It is essential for students to know a basic definition of democracy and understand that our nation was founded based on a respect for a set of key, basic democratic values. This includes, but is not limited to, the idea of equality for all, respecting the rights and opinions of others, respect for the rule of law, freedom generally and specifically, along with others. Students should know basic symbols of freedom such as the American flag, the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, special holidays, and the right to vote.

It is not essential for students to know the major ideas or philosophies that led to the creation of democracies around the world. It is not essential for students to understand the historical evolution of the creation of the United States as a democratic nation. It is not essential for students to know specific details of the United States Constitution or Declaration of Independence. Students also do not need to know examples of other democracies.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessment requires students to **recognize** the basic values of American democracy therefore; the primary focus of assessment should be to **identify** basic democratic values that are a part of our civic responsibilities in a democratic society. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to **recall** symbols of democracy; and to **explain** the basic idea of democracy.

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